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10-10-1975

## Technical Bulletins: Residential and Automobile Security Courtesy Citations

MTAS

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## technical bulletin

Municipal Technical Advisory Service  
Institute for Public Service, The University of Tennessee  
In cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League

October 10, 1975

### RESIDENTIAL AND AUTOMOBILE SECURITY COURTESY CITATIONS

Sterling Heights, MI, is using the citation reproduced below as a means of preventing burglaries and larceny.

#### STERLING HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT Residential Security Courtesy Citation

DATE:	TIME:	AM PM
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LOCATION:

##### SECURITY RISK:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front Door Open  | <input type="checkbox"/> Gate Left Open                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Door Open   | <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive Newspaper or Mail Accumulation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Property (Bikes, Lawn mower, etc.) Left in Yard |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain) _____                                    |   |

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER:

BADGE NO.:

In an effort to prevent burglary or theft from your home, the noted violation of security precautions is being brought to your attention in the form of this "Courtesy Citation." The Sterling Heights Police Department solicits your cooperation in joining together in preventing crime before it occurs in your community.

In the City of Sterling Heights  
for POLICE or FIRE Emergencies

**DIAL  
911**

OCT 28 1975  
**MTAS LIBRARY**



MAURICE D. FOLTZ  
Chief of Police

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP PREVENT YOURSELF FROM BECOMING A VICTIM OF A CRIME, CONTACT THE CRIME PREVENTION DIVISION OF THE STERLING HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT AT:  
739-4500

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739-4500

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY PREVENTION

##### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

- Close your garage door each time you leave, even though you may be gone for only a short time.
- When on vacation, make arrangements with a reliable neighbor to collect mail, newspapers, and care for your lawn.
- Purchase one of several inexpensive timers to light the interior of your home when you are away.
- Use positive locking devices such as a deadbolt lock to prevent intrusion of your home.
- Adequately illuminate the exterior of your home and yard area during the evening hours.
- Be cautious about leaving doors open while outside. There are those who gain entry through the front door while a person is in the backyard, or through the back door if the person is working in the front.
- Properly mark your valuables with your Michigan Operator's License Number. Engravers are available free of charge through "Operation Identification" at your Sterling Heights Police Department.



Chief of Police Maurice D. Foltz describes the city's procedure in issuing these citations as follows:

Sterling Heights police officers issue RESIDENTIAL SECURITY COURTESY CITATIONS to citizens whose homes present a target for the would-be burglar or thief. Open doors, gates, and personal property which is left out in the open present an easy target for theft. Excessive newspaper and mail accumulation, uncut lawns, lack of lighting in the evening hours--all indicate the potential for an easy burglary.

When issuing the Residential Security Courtesy Citation, the officer checks to see if anyone is home. If the resident is home, the officer points out the security risks involved. This personal contact creates a feeling that the police officer and the Department have taken a personal interest in the resident. A positive contact can only help to promote better police public relations.

Officers are also issuing AUTOMOBILE SECURITY COURTESY CITATIONS. Citizens are alerted to remove keys from the ignition, to always lock car doors, and keep valuables out of view. Should a citizen return to his car and find a "ticket" on the windshield, it may be a reminder that an unlocked vehicle or packages in plain view are inviting targets for a thief.

It is the aim of crime prevention programs to reduce criminal opportunity through citizen responsibility. Crime can be substantially reduced only through a cooperative effort between citizens and police. The RESIDENTIAL SECURITY COURTESY CITATION and the AUTOMOBILE SECURITY COURTESY CITATION can reduce potential criminal activity by making the citizen aware of how he can keep from being an "easy mark" for crime.

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